

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 RSR-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 CU-04 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 /098 W

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R 271646 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6942

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 1529

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, EC

SUBJECT: CREATION OF NATIONAL SECRETARIAT OF INFORMATION

REF: QUITO 4761

1. SUMMARY

THE NEW NATIONAL SECRETARIAT OF INFORMATION IS TO BE THE SOLE OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN FOR GOE WITH FREE ACCESS TO 2 PERCENT OF NEWSPAPER SPACE. IT ALSO WILL APPROVE LICENSES FOR COMMUNICATION MEDIA AND RECEIVE RECORDED COPIES OF EDITORIAL COMMENTS. IN ADDITION, THE SECRETARIAT WILL BE THE PUBLIC CENSOR. ALSO, ALL PUBLISHING ACTIVITIES HAVE TO BE REGISTERED; USIS MAY BE AFFECTED. END SUMMARY

2. CLARIFYING AND IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION HAS NOW BEEN ISSUED FOR DECREE NO. 1348 ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL SECRETARIAT OF INFORMATION. AS REPORTED IN QUITO 4761, THE NATIONAL SECRETARIAT OF INFORMATION IS TO BE THE SOLE OFFICIAL VOICE OF THE GOE AND AS SUCH WILL BE ABLE TO EXERCISE CONSIDERABLE CONTROL OVER THE PRONOUNCEMENTS OF THE NUMEROUS GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND DEPARTMENTS. IT IS EVIDENT THAT THE PRESIDENT, THROUGH THE SECRETARIAT, WILL HAVE FAR GREATER CONTROL OVER
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THE PUBLIC STATEMENTS OF HIS OWN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS THAN HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN THE CASE. IN THE PAST, THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE COORDINATION OF PRESS RELEASES BY GOVERNMENT OFFICES AND THIS HAS OFTEN CAUSED FAR GREATER DAMAGE TO THE GOE'S IMAGE THAN STATEMENTS BY OUTSIDERS. IN THE LONG RUN THE ABILITY TO INHIBIT EW WAGE AND BENEFIT PROPOSAL. ON BASIS OF THIS PROGRESS, NATIONAL MEDIATOR CALLED BOTH PARTIES TO HIS OFFICE MARCH 26 TO HAMMER OUT FINAL SETTLEMENT TERMS. INFORMED PRESS OBSERVERS SPECULATE THAT COMPROMISE PROPOSAL WILL BE PUBLISHED MARCH 28 OR 29, BUT TERMS ARE AS YET UNKNOWN. EXTENSION OF CONFLICT TO FUEL AND GASOLINE DELIVERIES, ELECTRIC POWER STATIONS AND AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE SHOPS AT COPENHAGEN AIRPORT, ALL OF WHICH ARE SCHEDULED TO COMMENCE APRIL 3, WILL BE POSTPONED BY MEDIATOR PENDING VOTE BY EMPLOYEES AND BY EMPLOYER FEDERATIONS ON NEW MEDIATION PROPOSAL. IF PROPOSAL IS ACCEPTED BY BOTH SIDES, STRIKE COULD TERMINATE BY APRIL 9 OR 10.

3. LEFT- WING (SOCIALIST PEOPLES' PARTY AND COMMUNIST) TRADE UNION ELEMENTS HAVE MOUNTED CAMPAIGN FAVORING REJECTION OF THE NEW PROPOSAL. THIS GROUP MOBILIZED SEVERAL THOUSAND DEMONSTRATORS IN AALBORG MARCH 25 AND THREE TO FOUR THOUSAND MARCH 27 IN FRONT OF EMPLOYERS CONFEDERATION HEADQUARTERS IN COPENHAGEN, DEMANDING A SETTLEMENT BASED ON ORIGINAL LO DEMANDS; 18 KRONER PER HOUR MINIMUM WAGE FOR BOTH MEN AND WOMEN, FORTY- HOUR WORK WEEK-- REDUCED TO 36 FOR NIGHT SHIFT WORKERS, 12 1/2 PERCENT VACATIONBONUS AND 60 ORE PER HOUR COST OF LIVING INCREMENT. DEMONSTRATORS THREATEN REJECTION OF MEDIATOR'S PROPOSAL IF THESE DEMANDS NOT FULLY MET. DESPITE RELATIVELY LARGE NUMBERS OF DEMONSTRATORS INVOLVED, EFFORT BY RADICAL FRINGE OF TRADE UNION MOVEMENT TO PREVENT COMPROMISE SETTLEMENT HAS NOT REACHED WORRISOME PROPORTIONS. IF BOTH EMPLOYERS AND

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LO LEADERSHIP ENDORSE NEW PROPOSAL, IT WILL PROBABLY BE ACCEPTED.

4. STRIKE AND LOCK- OUT ACTIONS HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED WITH TYPICAL DANISH ORDERLINESS, MARRED ONLY BY TWO MINOR INDICENTS. GASOLINE TRUCKS FROM SMALLER TRANSPORT COMPANIES BLOCKED SINGLE ACCESS ROAD TO PROVESTENEN, COPENHAGEN'S GASOLINE STORAGE AREA, MARCH 23 TO PROTEST

DISCRIMINATION IN FAVOR OF MAJOR OIL COMPANIES' TRUCKS.
POLICE OPENED ACCESS ROAD AFTER SOME SIX- HOUR DELAY.
ON MARCH 26 TWO HUNDRED IRATE FARMERS STAGED TWO- HOUR
SIT- DOWN STRIKE ON FREEWAY BRIDGE OVER THE LITTLE BELT
TO PROTEST LACK OF LIQUID AMMONIA FERTILIZER BECAUSE OF
TRANSPORT STRIKE. THESE TWO INCIDENTS, PLUS RASH OF
ILLEGAL STRIKES BY TEACHERS, UNRELATED TO THE NATION-
WIDE INDUSTRIAL STRIKE, HAVE BEEN ONLY UNFORTHWARTHE EVENTS,
BRINGING TOUCH OF DRAMA TO WHAT HAS OTHERWISE BEEN
COMPLETELY UNEVENTFUL CONFLICT.
DUNNIGAN

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